

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A policy-based network security management system is disclosed. In one embodiment, the system comprises a security management controller comprising one or more processors; a computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for policy-based network security management, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of receiving a set of data regarding a user of a computer network; automatically deciding on a course of action based on the set of data, wherein the course of action may be adverse to the user although the set of data is insufficient to establish whether the user is performing a malicious action; and sending signals to one or more network elements in the computer network to implement the decision.